

REMARKS

1. The Office Action has rejected Claims 1 – 4, and 7 – 11 under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 4,478,396 (Kawaura) in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,471,179 (Tousi). The Office Action states that Kawaura shows the state of the prior art in Fig. 1 to include upper and lower members of two disparate elastomeric materials, while Tousi teaches the use of MCU for the isolation mount and natural or butyl rubber for a bushing. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant would direct the Examiner's attention to the amendments to independent Claims 1 and 7 to better define Applicant's invention over the cited prior art references. More particularly, these amended independent claims define a specific body mount assembly having disparate soft and hard elastomeric members with a fastener passing through a central opening formed in each of the elastomeric members and a retainer member coupled to the fastener to clamp the upper and lower members on opposing sides of the mounting bracket with the lower member being positioned between the mounting bracket and the retainer member to isolate the mounting bracket from the retainer member.

More specifically, Claim 1 defines a body mount that has a softer elastomeric upper member to minimize noise transfer from the mounting bracket and a harder elastomeric lower member to minimize the transmission of vibrations from the second component through the mounting bracket to the first component. Furthermore, Claim 1 defines a specific arrangement of parts including a fastener passing through a central opening in the upper and lower members to clamp the mounting bracket directly between the upper and lower members.

The fastener is engaged directly with the mounting flange, while the retainer is coupled to the fastener and engaged with the lower member so that the mounting bracket is isolated.

Claim 7 is directed to the specific arrangement of parts that include a fastener passing through a central opening in the upper and lower members to clamp the mounting bracket directly between the upper and lower members and the upper member separating the mounting flange and the mounting bracket. The retainer is coupled to the fastener and engaged with the lower member so that the mounting bracket is isolated.

Applicant respectfully submits that this particular combination of elements to form an automotive body mount is not taught or suggested by either of the cited prior art references, whether taken singly or in combination. Neither reference teaches or suggests the specific arrangement of components identified above with respect to amended independent Claims 1 and 7. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as defined by Claims 1 and 7 is not rendered obvious by the cited combination.

In response to the Examiner's comments that only a general allegation of patentability is alleged, Applicant respectfully submits that the above statements reflect specifically the language that Applicant believes patentably distinguishes amended independent Claims 1 and 7 from the cited prior art references.

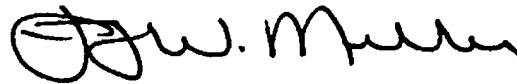
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. In summary, Claim 8 has been canceled, and Claims 1 – 4, 7, and 9 – 11 remain in the application. Applicant believes that the claims are allowable based on the foregoing

amendments. Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn and that all claims remaining in this case be allowed.

Pursuant to currently recommended Patent Office practice, the Examiner is expressly authorized to call the undersigned attorney if in his judgment disposition of this application could be expedited or if he considers the case ready for final disposition by other than allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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